

HOUSE No. 4946

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, January 23, 2026.

The committee on Financial Services, to whom was referred the petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 1230) of John J. Lawn, Jr., and others for legislation to mandate cancer screenings for firefighters through health care benefits plans or programs provided by the public employer, reports recommending that the accompanying bill (House, No. 4946) ought to pass.

For the committee,

JAMES M. MURPHY.

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In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court
(2025-2026)

An Act mandating access to cancer screenings for firefighters through health care benefits plans or programs provided by the public employer.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. A firefighter employed as a full-time paid employee of a fire department of
2 the State or a City, Town, Fire or Water District, shall be provided a cancer screening
3 examination conducted by a physician not less than three years after the start of the firefighter's
4 employment as a firefighter and every three years thereafter during the course of the firefighter's
5 employment.

6 This section shall also apply to members of the Massachusetts military reservation fire
7 department, members of the 104th fighter wing fire department, and members of the Devens fire
8 department established pursuant to chapter 498 of the acts of 1993 and, for the purposes of this
9 section, the Massachusetts Port Authority, the Massachusetts Military Reservation, the Barnes
10 Air National Guard Base and the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone established pursuant to said
11 chapter 498 shall be fire districts.

12 The examination shall include screening for, at a minimum and when applicable, the
13 following cancers:

14 Colon; Lung; Bladder; Oral; Thyroid; Skin; Blood; Breast; Cervical; Testicular; and
15 Prostate.

16 All costs associated with screenings provided under this section shall be borne by the
17 firefighter's health care benefits plan or program provided by the firefighter's employer. No co-
18 payment, deductible, coinsurance, or any out-of-pocket expense shall be required for such
19 examinations, provided, however, that cost sharing shall be required if the applicable plan is
20 governed by the Federal Internal Revenue Code and would lose its tax-exempt status as a result
21 of the prohibition on such for these services.